United Nations A/52/464

General Assembly

Distr.:General
14 October 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 143

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

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Annex

Comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Joint Inspection Unit presents its comments on the following final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which have been prepared for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

2. As stipulated in resolution 48/218 B, the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services have been transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. The Joint Inspection Unit assumes that the Secretary-General is in agreement with those reports on which he conveyed no comments.

3. The Unit's past practice was to submit comments on all reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services together once a year. However, in view of the General Assembly's decision to consider those reports under the appropriate agenda items, the Unit and the Office have agreed on a new procedure, introduced in July 1997, in accordance with which the Unit has been submitting comments on individual reports as they are taken up by the Assembly.

4. Since the issuance of the note by the Secretary-General of 21 October 1996 (A/51/530 and Corr.1), in which the Joint Inspection Unit transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session its comments on final reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Unit has received the following further reports for comment:

Audit of the United Nations access control system Project (A/50/791)

Report on the investigation of the United Nations access control system (A/51/467)

Report on the inquiry into seminars of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/51/486, annex)

Audit and investigation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/51/789, annex)

Final report on enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and programmes (A/51/801)

Audit of Headquarters catering operations (A/51/802, annex)

Audit of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/51/803, annex)

Review of the outsourcing practices at the United Nations (A/51/804, annex)

Review of the United Nations Environment Programme and the administrative practices of its secretariat, including the United Nations Office in Nairobi (A/51/810, annex)

Review of the 1997 resource requirements for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/51/824, annex)

Review of the programme and administrative practices of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (A/51/884, annex)

Audit of the United Nations Postal Administration (A/51/897, annex)

In-depth evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/1997/2, annex)

In-depth evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/1997/3, annex)

Topics for future in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1997/4, annex)

Triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1997/5, annex)

5. The Joint Inspection Unit has reviewed all the above reports. The General Assembly has already considered some of them, including the report on the audit of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/51/803, annex), which was commented on separately. With respect to the others, the United either in general agrees with their findings or does not consider it appropriate to comment on them.